

## **Proposed Minimum High School Graduation Requirements**

**P-16 Council  
Agenda Item IV-B  
March 29, 2005**

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### **Update**

At the direction of the Kentucky Board of Education, the Kentucky Department of Education in partnership with the field, clarified and refined the Core Content for Assessment and developed a timeframe and implementation plan for refocusing the work of secondary schools. As a result of this work, the work of the P-16 Council, and a thoughtful review of various national reports (e.g., American Diploma Project and the National Governors Association), specific policy issues have arisen related to the adequacy of the current high school graduation requirements to prepare students for the workforce and postsecondary education.

At its October 5-6, 2005, meeting, the KBE considered revisions to 704 KAR 3:305, which specifies the current minimum requirements for high school graduation. The Board continued its consideration of the issues surrounding high school graduation requirements at the December 7-8, 2005, KBE meeting. Changes to the minimum requirements for high school graduation were given final approval at the February 2006 meeting. These revised requirements will take effect with the graduating class of 2012. The new requirements are as follows:

- **Language Arts:** Four (4) credits (English I, II, III, IV) to include the content strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, observing, inquiry, conventions, analysis, and using technology as a communication tool.
- **Social Studies:** Three (3) credits to include the content strands of historical perspective, including U.S. history, geography, economics, government and civics, and cultures and societies.
- **Mathematics:** Three (3) credits to include the content strands of number property and operation, measurement, geometry, data analysis and probability, and algebraic thinking and including the following minimum requirements:
  - One mathematics course shall be taken each year of high school.
  - Required courses shall include algebra I, geometry, and algebra II. An integrated, applied, interdisciplinary or technical/occupational course that prepares a student for a career path based on the student's Individual Learning Plan may be substituted for a traditional algebra I, geometry, or algebra II course on an individual student basis.
  - Pre-algebra shall not be counted as one of the three required mathematics credits for graduation but may be counted as an elective.
- **Science:** Three (3) credits to incorporate lab-based scientific investigation experiences and includes the content strands of biological science, physical science, earth and space science, and unifying concepts.

- **Health:** One-half (½) credit to include the content strands of individual well-being, consumer decision, personal wellness, mental wellness, and community services.
- **Physical education:** One-half (½) credit to include the content strands of personal wellness, psychomotor, and lifetime activity.
- **History and appreciation of visual and performing arts (or another arts course which incorporates this content):** One (1) credit to include the content strands of arts, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts or a standards-based specialized arts course based on the student's Individual Learning Plan.
- **Academic and career interest standards-based learning experiences:** Seven (7) credits including four (4) standards-based learning experiences in an academic or career interest based on the student's Individual Learning Plan.
- **Technology:** Demonstrated competency.

(Note: Changes also were made in the regulation's language to clarify the appropriate development and implementation of the Individual Learning Plan.)

An additional change was a revision to the awarding of a certificate of attendance for an exceptional student whose disability precludes a course of study leading to receipt of a diploma. Such a student would now receive a certificate of work readiness and employability related to an alternative course of study.